



SITUATION REPORT #153



INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: March 23, 2021	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents -	Number
Total Confirmed Cases	4831
Recovered	4748
Deaths	59
In-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	1
Out-of-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	0
Tests Submitted –	Number
Positivity Rate Walla Walla County for week ending 3/22/2021	0.4%
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	256
College Place	603
Dixie	22
Prescott	116
Touchet/Lowden	86
Waitsburg	70
Walla Walla	3678
Total	4831



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Confirmed Cases by Age		Number
Under 20		641
20-39		2009
40-59		1394
60-79		607
Over 80		180
Confirmed Cases by Gender		Number
Female		1997
Male		2834
TOTAL		4831

REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 2/10 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH, Providence and Community Partners are holding Mass Vaccination Clinics at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds
- DCH has hired a nurse, a Communications Coordinator and 2 case investigators
- DCH Partnering with Population Health and Whitman College students on 'what to do while waiting for results of testing and how to reduce transmission risk'
- DCH working with businesses and Long-term Care facilities on containment of outbreaks which includes testing, contact tracing and educational information
- DCH and Providence agreement signed to provide isolation and quarantine facilities
- DCH attending Covid Vaccine planning meetings with DOH and Providence
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-6pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, February 2nd
- DCH attending M-Th DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance
- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.



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- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 03/29/21
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.

1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
No Requests Pending.			

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1. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Businesses have benefited from funding that has been distributed.
- Providence St. Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) stated that previous experience gained in working with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) and other partners on Flu vaccinations have had a significant positive impact on the current vaccine administration.
- Equity Task Force rollout has been successful.
- The partnership between all the Walla Walla County response agencies has worked well.
- VAMC delivered 200 doses of J&J vaccine at clinics in LaGrande, Lewiston & Richland over the weekend. They have given out 8000 doses so far. Number of veterans wanting the vaccine in Walla Walla seems to be slowing.

2. Risks and challenges

- **COVID-19 Cases**
 - Total Confirmed Cases: 4831



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- ❖ Recovered: 4,748
- ❖ Deaths 59
- ❖ Active: 24
 - In-home Isolation 22
 - Hospitalized: 1; 1 in-county residents, 0 out of county resident
- Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) – included in numbers above:
 - ❖ Incarcerated active: 0
 - ❖ Staff active: 2
- Positivity Rate 0.4%, as of 3/22/21
- **Phase 3 Metrics**
 - New cases: 3/6 to 3/19 - 37 cases per 100K (14 days)
 - Hospitalizations: 3/13 to 3/19 – 2 hospitalizations per 100K (7 days)
- Concerns about effects of COVID vaccine.
- Coordinated communication of mass vaccination planning effort to the public.
- Fairgrounds clinic was inundated with people on Saturday afternoon who showed up without an appointment for vaccine.
- Conflicting information in supporting documentation and Phase Finder about who is eligible for vaccine. People will see that according to the guidance that they are eligible, and then are unable to confirm eligibility when going through Phase Finder. Lots of confusion about who is eligible.
- Consensus is that it is 'time to get shots in arms.'
- Having difficulty filling clinic slots, in part because of confusion surrounding eligibility.
- Confusion about universal masking requirements. No change to universal masking in healthcare.
 - LTC facilities report that there is a great deal of confusion about what is, and what is not, allowed for in-person visitation.

3. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Walla Walla County Emergency Management (WWEM) is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call is weekly, on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- WWEM will continue to manage immunization clinic volunteers under the Washington State Emergency Worker Program.
- Walla Walla University Center for Humanitarian Engagement assisting PSMC with vaccination clinic volunteer scheduling using the Walla Walla Volunteer Corps [website](#).
- DCH weekend staffing.
- PSMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.



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- DCH and PSMCMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary.
- LTC facilities continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%.
- DCH messaging emphasizing the importance of social distancing, masking, limiting gatherings. Messaging around safety of COVID19 vaccine, encouraging residents to participate in getting their COVID immunizations.
- Providence Urgent Care drive-through hours are currently 0700-1600. They will be discontinuing drive-through COVID testing, effective April 1st.
- Chamber of Commerce is distributing PPE with informational cards to hotels, so guests know what Phase 2 means in Walla Walla. Interest in obtaining PPE has leveled off.
- Walla Walla Clinic looking at closing cold and flu clinic; possibly April 2nd.
- No adjustments to 'sick clinic' hours at Family Medical Center. They remain busy.
- Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grants: Working Washington 4.0 application, eligibility and FAQ can be found at <https://commercegrants.com/>. Applications will be accepted on March 29th.
- Mass vaccination clinic on Thursday, March 25th, from 1100 to 1900. 2nd dose clinic on March 27th.
- Mobile team from DOH coming to deliver vaccine to homebound residents.
- DCH Equity Team has been reaching out to agriculture workers. Many of the farmworkers have already been vaccinated by Yakima Valley Farmworkers.
- Public schools working through new guidelines from CDC; awaiting official work through the state about new 3 ft. social distancing guideline in schools.
- Chamber of Commerce reaching out to eligible businesses for 'shuttered windows' grant that will be coming available.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing and disease investigation

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- DCH <https://www.covidwwc.com/walla-walla-county>
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus



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- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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